

IN THE CLAIMS:

B1

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method of ranking the relevancy of a random collection of hypertext pages to a keyword-based query, comprising:
selecting randomly a page to rank from the random collection of hypertext pages;
calculating an intrinsic rank of a page the page;
calculating an extrinsic rank of the page; and
calculating the rank of the page by combining the intrinsic rank and the extrinsic rank.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the intrinsic rank is a function of the content score and the page weight of the page.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the content score is a function of the at least one of a frequency, a location, and/or and a font size of a keyword in the page.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the page weight is defined as the a probability-of that a user visiting the page when traveling in the random collection of hypertext pages in a random fashion.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the page weight is obtained as the sum of the product of a link weight of each inbound link to the page and the page weight of the originating page.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the page weight is computed by the following steps of:
constructing a connectivity graph, which represents the random collection of hypertext pages and the link structure between the pages;
adding a page weight reservoir with bi-directional links to and from each of the pages in the random collection of hypertext pages; and
summing all of the products of each inbound link weight with the page weight of the originating page providing the inbound link.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, further comprising computing the page weights by the following steps of:

initializing a page weight vector to a constant;

constructing a connectivity graph representative of the link structure of the random collection of pages;

computing an output page weight vector from the input page weight vector and the connectivity graph; and

comparing the output page weight vector with the input page weight vector for convergence, and if convergence is reached, writing the output page weight vector in a page weight database, and if not, mixing the input and output page weight vectors to generate a new input page weight vector and repeating until convergence is reached.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the link weight is defined as the probability of a user randomly choosing the link to visit other pages when traveling in the random collection of hypertext pages.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the link weight of the inbound links has a uniform value corresponding to the reciprocal of the total number of links outbound from an originating page.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the link weight has a variable value, which depends on at least one of the number of outbound links, the offset of the link, the size of the paragraph where the link is located, and/or and whether the link is an external or internal link.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the extrinsic rank is a function of the anchor weight and the page weight of the pages providing inbound links to the page.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the extrinsic rank is obtained by summing the products of the anchor weight and the page weight of the originating page providing each inbound link.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the anchor weight is a function of the inbound link weights and the keyword being present in the anchor text, in the vicinity of the anchor text, or in text related to the topic of the anchor text.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the page weight is defined as the probability of a user randomly visiting a page in the random collection of hypertext pages.

B1
15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the page weight is obtained by summing the products of the link weight of each inbound link to the page and the page weight of the originating page providing the inbound links.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the page weight is computed by the following steps of:

constructing a connectivity graph, which represents the random collection of hypertext pages and the link structure between the pages;
adding a page weight reservoir with bi-directional links to and from each of the pages in the random collection of hypertext pages; and
summing all of the products of each inbound link weight with the page weight of the originating page providing the inbound link.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising computing the page weights by the following steps of:

initializing a page weight vector to a constant;
constructing a connectivity graph representative of the link structure of the random collection of pages;
computing an output page weight vector from the input page weight vector and the connectivity graph; and
comparing the output page weight vector with the input page weight vector for convergence, and if convergence is reached, writing the output page weight vector in a page weight database, and if not, mixing the input and output page weight vectors

to generate a new input page weight vector and repeating until convergence is reached.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the link weight is defined as the probability of a user randomly choosing the link to visit other pages when traveling in the random collection of hypertext pages.

B
19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the link weight of the inbound links has a uniform value corresponding to the reciprocal of the total number of links outbound from an originating page.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the link weight has a variable value, which depends on at least one of the number of outbound links, the offset of the link, the size of the paragraph where the link is located, and/or and whether the link is an external or internal link.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the random collection of hypertext pages is fetched from the Web.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of ranking a random collection of hypertext pages, comprising:

selecting randomly a page to rank from the random collection of hypertext pages;
calculating the intrinsic rank of a page the page for a multi-keyword query;
calculating the extrinsic rank of the page for the multi-keyword query; and
calculating the rank of the page in the random collection of hypertext pages by combining
the intrinsic rank and the extrinsic rank.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the intrinsic rank is a function of content score and the page weight.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the content score is a function of the proximity value of the multi-keywords and of at least one of the frequency, location, and/or and font size of the multi-keywords in the page.

B1
25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the extrinsic rank of the page is a function of the partial extrinsic ranks and the proximity value of the multi-keywords.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein partial extrinsic rank is a function of the anchor weight and the page weight of the pages with identical anchor text.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein partial extrinsic rank is computed by summing the products of the anchor weight and the page weight of the pages with identical anchor text.

28-52. (Cancelled).
